

## SENTENCING



## FAX

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## Women and Sentence Outcomes in Maryland Circuit Courts, July 2001 - June 2002

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In Part I of Women and Sentencing in Maryland, we highlighted the major case characteristics of women offenders sentenced in Maryland's Circuit Courts. In the current Sentencing FAX, we underscore some of the sentence outcomes of these women.

Figure 1 shows that approximately 96% of women's convictions resulted from a plea bargain and 4% from a trial. Most of the women offenders were represented by public defenders (60%) followed by private attorneys (34%), self (3%), and court-appointed attorneys (1%) (Figure 2). These statistics are similar for male offenders. Women differ from men in that a higher percentage of females are charged as single-count offenders (80%) than males (75%).

Figure 1. — Disposition Type

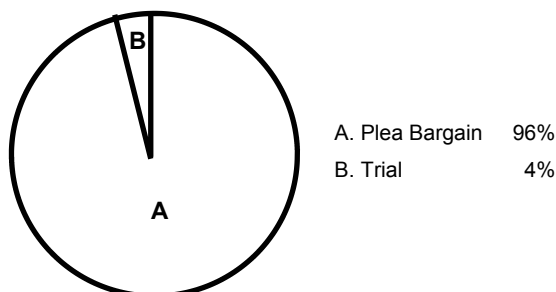
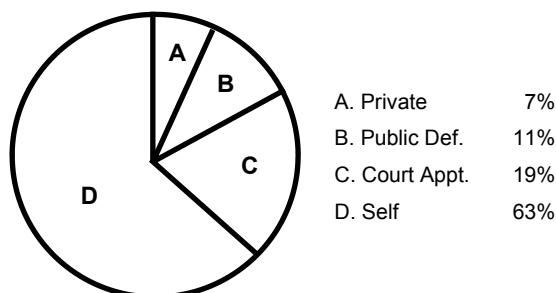


Figure 2. — Representation Type

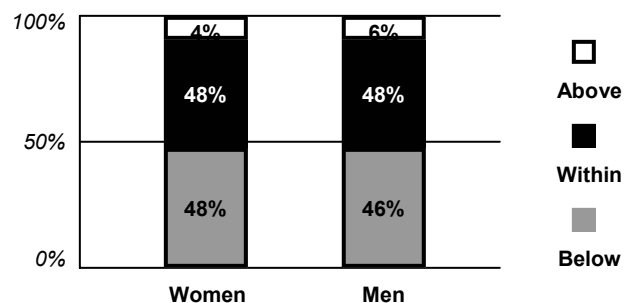


Women were less likely to be sentenced to prison/jail terms (46%) than males (69%). Of those sentenced to prison/jail, the average sentence was about 31 months for women and 50 months for men. Women also receive shorter sentences on average for person, drug, and property offenses (see Table 1.). Figure 3 shows that similar percentages of males and females were sentenced within the guidelines ranges. However, when judges departed from the guidelines, a slightly higher percentage of females were sentenced below the recommended ranges (48%) than males (46%).

Table 1. — Average Sentence Length (months)

	Women	Men
Person	46	77
Drug	27	37
Property	22	35
OVERALL	31	50

Figure 3. — Sentencing Guidelines Departure



The Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (SCCSP) collects and reports data on sentencing practices in the State's circuit courts. "Sentencing Fax" periodically publishes information about Maryland sentencing for state courts and policy makers. Its full collection of research, data, and reports can be found on its website, [www.msccsp.org](http://www.msccsp.org).